FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 080 27 April 1987

ARGENTINA

Rico Takes 'Full Responsibility' for Uprising B 1
Courts Order Gen Catuzzi's Preventive Arrest B 3
Further on Arrest [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Apr] B 3
Gen Caridi Swears In New Army Corps Commanders B 4
Army Chief of Staff Discusses Recent Crisis B 4
Bomb Explodes in Peronist Faction Office B 5

BOLIVIA

Government 'Regrets' Mineworkers' Decision To Strike C 1
COMIBOL 'Reactivation' Goal [EFE] C 1
Minister Says Price of Gas Not Negotiable [AFP] C 1

BRAZIL

Daily Says U.S. Pressuring Weapons Industry D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Apr]
Finance Minister Funaro Confirms Resignation [EFE] D 2
International Banks 'Laundering' Drug Money D 2
[O GLOBO 24 Apr]
Briefs: Drug Seizure D 2

CHILE

Pinochet Categorically Denies Cabinet Changes E 1
Pinochet Proposes Change to CNI Authorities E 1
Government Minimizes Cardinal Silva's Comments E 1
New National Party First To Register; Recognized E 2
Socialist Leader Nunez Promotes Free Elections [AFP] E 2

COLOMBIA

FARC, EPL Produce 'Ambiguous,' 'Strange' Pact F 1
[EL TIEMPO 21 Apr]
ELN Guerrillas Admit 'War' Against FARC [EL TIEMPO 23 Apr] F 2
Suspension of USSR Turbines Contract Viewed F 2
[EL TIEMPO 24 Apr]

PARAGUAY

Laino Returns, Allowed To Enter Country 25 Apr H 1
Makes Remarks to Press H 1
Further on Remarks [ULTIMA HORA 25 Apr] H 2

PERU

President Garcia Explains Silver Sales Policy J 1
Government Appoints Aeroperu To Fly to U.S. J 2
Briefs: Portable Drug Laboratory Found; Police Arrest Drug Traffickers J 2

URUGUAY

'Important' Fishing Agreement Signed With USSR [LA HORA 18 Apr] K 1
Senate Supports Argentine Democratic Institutions [AFP] K 2

MEXICO

Pemex Director on Production, Revenue, Investments [EXCELSIOR 22 Apr] M 1

PANAMA

People's Party 'Communique' on UNADE Policies [EXTRA 25-26 Apr] N 1
Southern Command Colonels Gave LA PRENSA Documents [CRITICA 24 Apr] N 1
Legislator Accused of Heading Smuggling Ring [EL SIGLO DOMINICAL 26 Apr] N 2
Briefs: Press Secretary Appointed N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

Area Foreign Ministers Discuss Arias Peace Plan P 1

BELIZE

PRC Signs Economic Cooperation Agreement P 1

EL SALVADOR

FMLN Reports 45 Army Casualties in 3 Days [Venceremos] P 2
FMLN Criticizes Duarte's Stand on 1 May Protest [Venceremos] P 4

GUATEMALA

State Employees Plan General Strike Over Wages P 4
Colonel Shot to Death in Guatemala City P 5

HONDURAS

Congress President: U.S. Support 'Inconsistent' [AFP] P 5
12 Nicaraguans Who Entered Illegally Returned [LA PRENSA 24 Apr] P 7
Military Unaware of Nicaraguan Indian Kidnapping P 7

NICARAGUA

Contra Prisoners Killed During Escape Attempt [AFP] P 8
EPS Kills 9 Contra 'Saboteurs,' Seizes Materiel P 8
Defense Minister on Casualties P 9
FDN Denies EPS Claims [AFP] P 10

CUBA

Soto Meets With USSR 'Friendship' Delegation Q 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Afghanistan Q 1
'Protocol of Understanding' Signed With Peru Q 1
Trade Relations With Colombia Discussed Q 2
U.S. Antidrug Operation in Guatemala Criticized Q 2
Commentary on Impact of U.S. Immigration Bill Q 3
Group of 77 Debate, Conference Comes to End Q 4
Debate Over Declaration Q 4
Chinese Delegate on Meeting Q 5
Political Declaration Drafted Q 5
Final Declaration Refined Q 6
Castro Meets Group of 77 Argentine Delegation [AFP] Q 6
20th Anniversary of Intercosmos Program Marked Q 6
Castro Talks With Medical Fair Participants Q 7
Blas Roca Dies 25 April After Long Illness Q 7
Organizer Outlines ANAP Congress Topics Q 7

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Commitment to Regional Integration Reiterated S 1
Statement Assesses Relations With United Kingdom S 3

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Prime Minister Addresses Nation on Economy S 4
IMF, USSR Assistance Refused by Government S 5
Debt Reduction Plan Discussed With Guyana S 5

SURINAME

Friendship Committee With Libya Condemns U.S. U 1
ACP-EEC To Study Relations With The Netherlands U 1
Government Participates in Drug Abuse Conference U 1

RICO TAKES 'FULL RESPONSIBILITY' FOR UPRISING

PY270155 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (DYN) -- Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico accepted "full responsibility" in court yesterday for last weekend's rebellion at Campo de Mayo. He added, however, that the objective of the mutiny was not to oust the government, or to obtain an amnesty law, but to find "a political solution to the problems created by the consequences of the antisubversive war."

At the San Isidro Federal Court yesterday, Rico testified before Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti, who is trying him for rebellion. Highly reliable sources today reported on the testimony to DYN.

After hearing the accusations, the former head of the Army Infantry School mutiny "respectfully" requested that the civil judge declare himself incompetent, and submit the case to a military court. Rico also said he took command of and responsibility for the infantry school during the serious events that occurred during Holy Week; that the school's rebellious military personnel acted "voluntarily;" and that he did not exert any type of pressure on them.

In his testimony, Rico emphasized his "total disagreement" in 1972 with then-General Jorge Videla and then-Colonels Eduardo Viola and Reynaldo Bignone. He also expressed his disagreement with General Deimundo Pinero in 1982, after the Malvinas War.

During his testimony, Rico repeated several times the rebellious officers did not intend to upset the constitutional order, and he explained to the judge they were "seeking a political solution to the problems created by the consequences of the antisubversive war, and the rebellion conveyed a petition and expressed goals that should be analyzed within the military context."

Judge Ernesto Gonzalez del Solar asked Rico whether "he had any intention of ousting the executive branch or any other state power, or of changing the Constitution." Rico answered negatively, and pointed out "the president of the Republic was repeatedly mentioned as a reference [como referencia], and after meeting the rebellious officers at the school's command, Alfonsin told the crowd gathered at the Plaza de Mayo there had been no intention of staging a coup." [passage omitted]

Ricao said he arrived at the Campo de Mayo Garrison on Thursday, 16 April, and personally witnessed "the great disorder prevailing" at the unit.

He added that, at 1900 on the same day, he went to the Infantry School, where "the disorder was more noticeable because many officers from other units had gone there to obtain information on the situation."

Rico then said "to restore order and prevent disorderly demands," he took command of the school, and with the support of the rebellious officers, replaced Colonel Pedrazzini, head of the unit, and his deputy, Fortunato Rezzet, who "despite some protests, did not refuse to leave the command."

Regarding his reasons for leaving the unit he commanded in San Javier, Misiones, on Thursday 16 April, and going to the Campo de Mayo Infantry School, Rico said his action expressed his support for former Major Ernesto Barreiro, who is currently being sought by the courts, and for Lieutenant Colonel Luis Polo, who had rebelled at the Cordoba Garrison.

Rico told the court these events should be analyzed from the Army's "institutional point of view," and that "this institutional aspect, and the respect for the Constitutional order were permanently emphasized in all his statements."

Rico said he had unilaterally decided to go to the Infantry School, "like all those who were there, in a personal, individual, and voluntary manner," and "all those who remained under his command did so voluntarily."

At this point Rico referred to the "disorder among the personnel" who had gathered at the Infantry School. Because of this disorder, he said he proceeded to "exercise command in order to try to prevent the situation from resembling a rebellion and to present an organized attitude, not a disorderly one."

He then said that Gen Augusto Videla, Radical Senators Adolfo Gass and Ricardo Laferriere, former Peronist Deputy Hector Basualdo, Justicialist Deputy Alberto Melon, and San Isidro Mayor Melchor Posse came to the unit with the purpose of thwarting the rebellion.

Rico refused to tell the judge the reasons why he surrendered on Sunday afternoon, and noted that the rebels, themselves, "restricted their actions," since the incident was confined to the Infantry School, and they did not even take tactical measures to protect themselves." Rico also noted all the officials who came to Campo de Mayo to learn about the situation "were continuously and adequately attended to."

He denied his intention had been to force the government to issue an amnesty law, or that he intended to "oust the executive branch or any other state power or change the Constitution."

At this point he emphasized "the president of the nation was repeatedly mentioned as a reference. Rico added that he (the president), himself, after his meeting at the Military Institute director's office, told the crowd gathered at Plaza de Mayo there were no intentions of staging a coup."

The former lieutenant colonel then said that "all personnel at the Infantry School, both those who were permanently assigned to the school itself and those who had spontaneously come to the school, voluntarily accepted" his command, thus acknowledging him as the head of the rebellion.

Rico said "it should be pointed out that in view of the degree of anarchy prevailing at Campo de Mayo Garrison, the officers at the Infantry School were probably the only ones respecting the chain of command as well as supporting the 14th Infantry Regiment of Cordoba."

At the end of his testimony, Rico requested that Riotti "declare himself incompetent and submit the case to a military judge" because Rico believes his case "naturally falls under the jurisdiction of a military court."

COURTS ORDER GEN CATUZZI'S PREVENTIVE ARREST

PY241918 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 24 Apr 87 (NA) -- The Federal Court has changed the detention of Brigade General Abel Catuzzi and placed him under strict preventive arrest. The document announcing this was handed to Gen Catuzzi, retired, at the Officers' Club at the V Army Corps, where he is being detained for serious human rights violations. The document was delivered by Court Secretary Angel Arganaraz a little before midnight last night. It has leaked that Gen Catuzzi "was upset by the court decision."

The document contains 10 pages and specifies the cases in which Catuzzi was involved, and confirmed that the trials of other crimes committed from 9 to 30 December 1976 have been suspended. The retired officer was chief of the Second Command of the V Army Corps from January 1976 to December 1979, during which time the violations occurred.

The court has suspended the trials on the case which occurred in Buenos Aires Province, in which the individuals Iannarelli, Ilacua, Ferrari, Freers, Cereijo, and Lofvial were allegedly detained in Bahia Blanca and then taken to La Plata and Avellaneda, where they were killed.

Further on Arrest

PY252154 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Apr 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Bahia Blanca Federal Appeals Court yesterday ordered the rigorous preventive arrest of former Fifth Army Corp deputy commander retired general Abel Catuzzi for his part in some of the cases of human rights crimes on which he testified.

Catuzzi was reportedly "annoyed" by the court ruling. The court found him prima facie responsible for at least one homicide, a dozen cases of torture followed by death, some 20 illegal privations of freedom and 15 cases of application of torture, according to the reliable court sources.

On the other hand, it dropped charges against him for the murder of six detainees in December 1976.

Catuzzi testified for five days and as from Tuesday of last week remained in detention in the same military guest-house as his predecessor, retired Fifth Army Corps deputy chief, General Adel Vilas.

Retired General Jose Luis Secton, meanwhile, was yesterday ordered to remain in detention at the court's disposal. He finished testifying yesterday on his responsibility for Patagonian repression.

He was accused of committing six homicides, two resulting from torture, 23 kidnappings and 15 cases of torture applied to detainees at clandestine detention centres.

The court rejected an appeal presented by Federal Prosecutor Hugo Canon, which asked that Saxton be interrogated on ten more charges. It will now have to rule on Saxon's arrest in the next 24 hours.

Retired General Enrique Braulia Olea is summoned for questioning for next Monday, and two colonels, whose names were not given, will follow.

In related news, the Supreme Court was forced to accelerate and make formal the suspension of the ESMA trials of human rights crimes committed at the Navy Mechanics School, so as to rule out an appeal presented by a defence counsel requesting that the trials take place as scheduled.

In response to a question of competence presented by the defence counsel of one of the accused officers, the Supreme Court requested that the Federal Appeals Court send it the ESMA file for analysis.

At the same time, it asked that the ESMA trials be held back until it ruled on the appeal. However, the lawyer of some of the victims of illegal repression, Alicia Oliveira, in turn presented an appeal to the suspension, considering that the trials should not be suspended without proper legal procedure.

Thus, the Supreme Court issued a public statement clarifying that it is empowered to take on federal cases itself, and that it may order the suspension of their treatment by federal courts. It also said that it was not necessary to give a pronouncement on the appeal to be able to order the suspension.

GEN CARIDI SWEARS IN NEW ARMY CORPS COMMANDERS

PY241828 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi this morning swore in the new commanders of the II, III, and IV Army Corps. The new Army chief of staff this morning traveled to Santa Fe, Cordoba, and La Pampa Provinces to swear in the commanders of the respective corps.

At 0830 Caridi presided over a ceremony at the Plaza de Armas of the 121st Communications Battalion, in Rosario, during which he swore in Colonel Juan Ramon Mabragana as commander of the II Army Corps. [passage omitted]

Following this ceremony General Caridi went to Cordoba where he swore in the new commander of the III Army Corps, General Roberto Felipe Dominguez. [passage omitted]

Right now General Caridi is presiding over a similar ceremony at the headquarters of the IV Army Corps in La Pampa Province, where he is swearing in the new commander, General Valentin Venier. [passage omitted]

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF DISCUSSES RECENT CRISIS

PY242352 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 24 Apr 87 (TELAM) -- Army Chief of Staff General Jose Segundo Dante Caridi today said the word coup has been erased from military terminology. He added that the members of the Armed Forces are absolutely convinced there cannot be another coup and that this is an issue that should be discarded.

This afternoon, Gen Caridi attended the installation of Brigadier General Humberto Esteban Pompilio Ferrucci as the new commander of the V Corps. The ceremonies were held in Villa Floresta.

Regarding the possibility of new dismissals, Gen Caridi said we are studying all the situations that have developed in the last few days. After we have a good understanding of what happened, we are going to establish guidelines. It will all depend on the seriousness of the situation.

He pointed out that his mission is to achieve unity and discipline in the Army. He also said the crisis has been overcome, but added everyone must be alert to prevent another such crisis.

Regarding the Army officers involved in the insubordination, Gen Caridi said that the military justice code will be enforced.

Regarding due obedience Caridi said: I know that several proposals are under study through legal and legislative channels. I do not know which one is going to be approved but I hope, pray and wish it will be effective.

He rejected the possibility that new consequences would develop from the military crisis. He said that to prevent such a possibility orders had been given and the matter had been thoroughly discussed.

He labeled the events in Tucuman and Salta as minor rumblings of the crisis. They were ineffective and useless because the problem had already been solved. This is why when the situation was explained to them, they immediately gave up.

Regarding the possibility of amnesty for the members of the Army and the remaining members of the Armed Forces, Gen Caridi said: This matter is not in my hands but in the hands of the executive branch, therefore, I am not involved.

Gen Ferrucci, the new commander of the V Corps, said that he was aware of the responsibilty he was assuming. He added: I accept the responsibility and with everyone's cooperation the mission will be fulfilled without problems.

Regarding a question about the situation in the V Corps, Gen Ferrucci said: As I said a few days ago, the situation in this area is completely normal.

BOMB EXPLODES IN PERONIST FACTION OFFICE

PY241443 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2256 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] San Nicolas, 23 Apr (NA) -- A medium-sized bomb dstroyed the office of a local Peronist faction called "Doctrinary Unit" which is sponsoring the candidacy of Luis Romero for mayor of San Nicolas. This faction, which belongs to the Peronist Renewal faction at the national level, will participate in the municipal elections next 26 April. The bomb exploded at dawn, damaging the plaster and causing a fire which destroyed most of the files kept there. The local police are investigating the motive and the identity of those reponsible for the attack, but no positive results have so far been obtained. A caretaker couple with a daughter who live at the back of the house were not injured.

GOVERNMENT 'REGRETS' MINEWORKER'S DECISION TO STRIKE

PY240228 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] According to Mining and Metallurgy Minister Jaime Villalobos, the government believes the stoppage of activities in the mines is causing a great loss to the national economy. He said if the workers really want the reactivation of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], they must show it by joining efforts to recover its economy, not engaging in stoppages.

[Begin Villalobos recording] The government has ratified its decision to reactivate COMIBOL under the plan already approved by the government some months ago. The government regrets the decision by the mineworkers federation to undermine this plan, which is the result of a lengthy study.

The general strike only seeks to undermine the reactivation of the enterprise and to generate additional costs that directly affect COMIBOL's investment plan. We feel this stoppage will only bring more damage to the state enterprise and the workers themselves. [end recording]

COMIBOL 'Reactivation' Goal

PY241304 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2202 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (EFE) -- Mining Minister Jaime Villalobos today said the government will cease transferring workers of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) and will implement a wage scale based on two minimum wages (some $50) to stimulate workers.

The minister explained the government does not intend to destroy the mineworkers federation, is committed to maintaining the current number of COMIBOL workers, and will move equipment and personnel from one district to another "to upgrade COMIBOL's activities."

According to the mining minister, the government's policy is to revamp the COMIBOL and turn it into a profitable and efficient company. According to Villalobos, "If we do not manage to revamp the COMIBOL we cannot speak of reactivating the Bolivian mining industry. In order to do this investments must be made."

A $35-million investment was allocated in 1987 to revitalize the COMIBOL and to pay social security allowances to 20,000 COMIBOL workers who have been transferred to other jobs since the government's economic program was implemented in August 1985.

MINISTER SAYS PRICE OF GAS NOT NEGOTIABLE

PY231552 Paris AFP in Spanish 1344 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Carlos Morales stated here today the Bolivian Government will be inflexible on export prices when it negotiates the sale of gas to Argentina. The minister said the preliminary meeting will be held in May, and that high-ranking officials from the sector will attend. Later, there will be other meetings at higher levels. Minister Morales emphasized that the Bolivian reactivation and stabilization processes, which are part of a new economic policy, depend heavily on the resources obtained through the sale of gas to Argentina. These gas exports total nearly $350 million a year.

DAILY SAYS U.S. PRESSURING WEAPONS INDUSTRY

PY231425 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Apr 87 p 2

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The U.S. Government is at the head of an international movement seeking to establish strict controls on the transference of advanced technology to the Brazilian military industry, particularly for missile guidance, precision metalworks, and pharmaceutical chemistry [quimica fina] systems. The Americans are afraid that Brazil may use this knowledge to build rockets with nuclear warheads. Two weeks ago, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, Canada, and the FRG signed a secret protocol establishing a 150-pound (nearly 300 kg) weight limit and a 300-mile (500 km) range limit for military weapons for which know-how may be transferred without restrictions.

Yesterday afternoon, officials from the U.S. State Department denied the measure is intended to affect the industry of a single country, taking into account the progress of the military industries in Israel, Argentina, India, Pakistan, and South Africa, "which are equally worrisome," because of the proliferation of atomic weapons.

This information, published last Thursday, 16 April, by the foreign press bureau [not further identified] in Washington, was received with skepticism in Brazil. According to a businessman of the defense material sector, "although agreements have already been negotiated with organizations as big as Italy's Oto-Melara, or France's Aeroespaciale, they will never be operational." According to this source, "it is more important to read between the lines: from now on, great pressures will be put on the sale of Brazilian military products in the foreign market. This pressure will probably be put on the clients themselves."

In the research areas, all of them official, the hardening of the U.S. position after several rapprochement attempts in the past 2 years, when high-ranking Defense Ministry officials visited the national materiel production centers offering cooperation, has caused surprise. At the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA] in Sao Jose dos Campos, a colonel-engineer has recalled "the existence at the Aeronatics Ministry of a good proposal from the General Dynamics (producer of the sophisticated Falcon F-16 fighter) for the joint manufacturing of a supersonic aircraft, and another from Hughes for the development of an entire family of missiles."

Advisers of Foreign Ministry Secretary General Flexa de Lima have stated the control agreement "is too broad and that it has not been made exclusively against Brazil." The advisers' reasoning is based on the fact that the document signed by the seven countries does not mention any country in particular, but refers to the rules regarding the transfer of technology "to any nation."

Right now, the national industry is engaged in a number of missile projects: the Barracuda antitank missile manufactured by the Avibras Aerospacial [Brazilian Aerospace Industry] in three versions (airborne, ground-to-surface, and surface-to-surface); the SS-300 missile, with a range of 300 km, made by the same company; the Leo-MAF, a laser-guided antitank missile, manufactured by Orbita, a company of the Engesa group [Specialized Engineers, Inc.]; the MOL, short-range air-to-air missile, and the MB-EE-150 missile. [paragraph continues]

Both the MOL and the MB-EE-150 missiles are being designed by Orbita. The Army Ministry, which is selecting suppliers, is preparing the specifications of an antiaircraft missile known, for the moment, as Solar. There must be two types of this missile: One launched from an armoured vehicle, and another lighter, portable one launched by a single soldier. Of these projects only the Leo-MAF is the result of a binational contract between the Brazilian company Orbita and the Italian company Oto-Melara.

FINANCE MINISTER FUNARO CONFIRMS RESIGNATION

PY262006 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Sao Paulo, 26 Apr (EFE) -- Brazilian Finance Minister Dilson Domingos Funaro today confirmed he had tendered his resignation. Upon leaving his residence in Sao Paulo for Brasilia, Funaro told reporters he had submitted his resignation to President Jose Sarney on Friday 24 April.

Antonio Maciel, chief of the civilian household, resigned on Wednesday 22 April.

INTERNATIONAL BANKS 'LAUNDERING' DRUG MONEY

PY251453 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Apr 87 p 15

[Excerpts] Well-known banks of the United States, Great Britain, Panama, and Cayman Islands are operating with the money of drug traffickers to legalize their narcodollars, by "laundering" them through front companies, like car agencies and dummy export-import corporations. This was reported yesterday to EFE by a Bolivian Senate delegation touring Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Peru to warn authorities in those countries about the danger of increasing cocaine trafficking in all Latin America. The Bolivian senators today stopped in Rio de Janeiro on their way to Brasilia, where they will talk members. They said the Credit Suisse White Weld, the Bank of Boston Corporation, and Merril Lynch, have become the main recipients of this illegal money because they open bank accounts indiscriminately without investigating the origin of deposits. [passage omitted]

Bolivian Senator Daniel Cabezas, of the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) Party, said drug trafficking has led Bolivia to an unprecedented situation of police corruption. The direct connection between drug traffickers and governments, like that of Gen Luis Garcia Meza, has eroded the authority of the law. We would like to warn neighboring countries about the wave of crime and political and economic destabilization into which Bolivia has been dragged by drug trafficking. One of the ways we will fight this crime is to control the international financial organizations to prevent the laundering of illegal money.

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE -- Federal Police yesterday arrested in Sao Paulo drug trafficker Pedro Jordelino Netto, alias Pedrinho da Ilha, 52, and seized 10 kg of pure cocaine he was transporting from Rio de Janeiro. During the afternoon, Federal Police seized another 15 kg of pure cocaine and arrested Jose Luis Rodriguez, 34. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Apr 87 p 6 PY]

PINOCHET CATEGORICALLY DENIES CABINET CHANGES

PY250103 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the Republic has categorically denied any cabinet changes. He said there are no changes and all the ministers are working well and in peace. He made this comment shortly before the beginning of a cabinet meeting at La Moneda Palace.

During the meeting, Brigadier General Francisco Ramirez was appointed deputy foreign minister and economist Sergio Melnick was appointed ODEPLAN [National Planning Office] director.

The chief executive made it clear that in case there are any changes or cabinet reshuffles, he will announce them in a timely fashion.

PINOCHET PROPOSES CHANGE TO CNI AUTHORITIES

PY250131 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The chief executive has signed a proposal to abrogate law 18315. The proposal states arrests provided for by Article 24 of the Constitution are no longer to be made by the National Intelligence Center [CNI].

The document, which is to be discussed by the Government Junta, states the detention centers mentioned in law 18315 are to be closed. [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT MINIMIZES CARDINAL SILVA'S COMMENTS

PY240223 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] High-ranking government sources have played down the comments made in Buenos Aires by Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez. The source pointed out that over the years, Silva Henriquez has shown a marked fondness for politics. In this regard, his critical remarks of the Chilean Government, always imbued with a dramatic tone, have become routine, the source noted.

Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez states that God is punishing the Chilean people by having them live under dictatorship. Silva Henriquez also made other sharply negative comments at the same time Cardinal Fresno was being decorated in Santiago with the Cardinal's Medal by President Pinochet.

The high-ranking government source said Cardinal Silva Henriquez' comments are normally bitter, and clearly show he is detached from the real situation being experienced by ordinary people in Chile. The source said in the end, what really matters is to judge people by their deeds.

NEW NATIONAL PARTY FIRST TO REGISTER; RECOGNIZED

PY242139 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The official gazette today published a document that officially recognizes the first political party registered in the electoral registration book. It is the National Party.

The document includes the note declaring the founding of this political party. The note was issued on 12 and 14 April before Acting Notary Public Jorge Troncoso.

The document states that the party will be called the National Party [Partido Nacional], and that its acronym will be PN. The symbol of this new political party will be a blue star inside a red circle. It adds that the office of the National Party will be at 1263 [name indistinct] Street, in Santiago. This was the headquarters of the former Conservative Party.

SOCIALIST LEADER NUNEZ PROMOTES FREE ELECTIONS

PY260335 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 25 Apr (AFP) -- On the 45th anniversary of his party, Chilean Socialist Party [PS] Leader Ricardo Nunez said the Chilean Socialist Party seeks to achieve a political opening through a national campaign for free elections that must start after all political parties opposing the military regime register in the election lists.

Nunez, who is the PS secretary general, criticized the Political Parties Law and those political parties that have already registered by stating that in doing so, for pseudo-pragmatic reasons, they are elluding the moral and political obligation of abolishing the institutional pitfall these laws represent.

The PS leader denounced the ambiguous position some Chilean leftist sectors have adopted regarding the use of violence in the struggle against the regime. He reasserted that the militarization of politics will lead to the defeat of the Chilean people because a military confrontation would only favor General Augosto Pinochet.

Speaking during a ceremony held to commemorate the PS anniversary held at the Cariola Theater, the leader of the renewed socialist sector said there is a vast consensus regarding the proposal to hold free elections and that this is an excellent starting point to establish the great democratic force that will defeat Pinochet.

Nunez also harshly criticized the military government and advocated the unity of socialism and the unity of the opposition sector within the framework of the campaign for free elections.

FARC, EPL PRODUCE 'AMBIGUOUS,' 'STRANGE' PACT

PA261501 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Apr 87 p 6-A

[Text] The ambiguous communique issued jointly last week by the FARC and the Popular Liberation Army, EPL, has produced conflicting opinions in some of the country's sectors. These sectors have different points of view on what the consequences of the pact which the two guerrilla groups signed on 4 April on a "Colombian mountain" will be.

In the document, which has caused much surprise because the two groups that signed it have had political and ideological differences for a long time, the EPL and FARC commit themselves to work "for the unity of the guerrilla movement," but at the same time for the promotion of a broad democratic front in search of a "political way out" of the crisis the country is enduring. This declaration has been interpreted in different ways.

In addition, there is the fact that while the FARC is maintaining a truce agreement with the government, and the dialogue aimed at securing compliance with the final phase of the Uribe agreement -- which calls for the reincorporation of FARC militants into institutional life -- is advancing, the EPL declared the truce broken in November 1985, following the death of EPL leader Oscar William Calvo, and has been carrying out full armed activities since then.

Bernardo Echeverry Ossa, a human rights official, has referred to the document issued by the two guerrilla groups, saying: "I find it strange because of the situation it poses, considering that the FARC is observing a truce and holding talks with a government, which has been very generous with it, while the EPL is a force that recently has chosen not to talk."

Echeverry Ossa also said: "Hopefully we could suppose that perhaps the EPL has a new attitude and wants to establish contact with the government through the FARC. This would be a most suitable response to the peace policy the government is promoting, a policy we hope will be completely successful."

Exactly 2 months ago, Echeverry Ossa and Carlos Eduardo Lozano, national director of the criminal indictment office, were at the point of meeting in Uraba with EPL representatives who requested that meeting. The meeting ultimately did not take place.

Jaime Pardo Leal, a UP leader and former presidential candidate of this organization, has said "the context of the joint declaration shows the rebel groups who signed it have the will to engage in dialogue to seek a political, not an armed, way out, and that they want to appeal to all forces of the country in search of a solution to the situation the country is going through."

Although he said the UP is independent from the FARC, he noted that FARC "has been clear in signing a great political agreement with the government and is interested in maintaining the truce, even if it has been trampled."

ELN GUERRILLAS ADMIT 'WAR' AGAINST FARC

PA261631 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 9a

[By Jairo Cala Otero]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 22 Apr -- The National Liberation Army (ELN) has publicly admitted for the first time it has been waging a "guerrilla war" against the FARC for some time. A pamphlet issued by the ELN stated the FARC has caused more ELN casualties than the regular Army.

Meanwhile, it urged the FARC to "stop killing revolutionaries" and questioned the FARC's reason for killing members of the ELN.

The pamphlet reports on three attacks carried out since May 1986. During those attacks, the FARC killed and wounded several ELN members and seized material from the group. The ELN pamphlet says: "Added to the killings in Arauca, Huila, and Antioquia, we conclude we have sustained more dead at the FARC's hands than those sustained in clashes with the Army."

SUSPENSION OF USSR TURBINES CONTRACT VIEWED

PA261608 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Apr 87 p 1-D

[Text] Medellin, 23 April -- Former Ambassador John Gomez Restrepo has stated that because the Colombian Government failed to purchase as agreed the turbines for the Urra Hydroelectric Plant, the government must pay $30 million in compensation to the Soviet Union. Gomez Restrepo said commercial relations between the two countries are nearly paralyzed because of this.

Gomez Restrepo said the Colombian Government has already paid $6 million (approximately 1.38 billion pesos) and has asked the Soviets to delay the delivery of the turbines -- scheduled for this year -- until 1989.

According to the former official, if the government decides not to build the plant, the Coastal Electric Corporation, Corelca, then the $30 million (6.9 billion pesos) compensation must be paid for canceling the order for the turbines, which are estimated to cost $200 million. [sentence as published]

"The turbines for the plant project in Urra were purchased without first defining how the infrastructure would be financed," the former diplomat said, while discussing his experiences as ambassador to the Soviet Union with the newspaper EL MUNDO, on occasion of the paper's eighth anniversary.

The $6 million downpayment on the $200 million contract could also be lost if the works are not carried out, he said.

Gomez Restrepo said the delay in receiving the turbines has affected commercial relations between the two countries, because "the Soviets do not want to sell or purchase merchandise in Colombia until the turbine matter is settled."

LAINO RETURNS, ALLOWED TO ENTER COUNTRY 25 APR

PY251400 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1334 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Domingo Laino has returned to the country on a regular Aerolineas Argentinas flight. The vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] was met by Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, the PLRA's president, party members, and by representatives of all the sectors grouped in the National Accord. Three deputies and a senator, who are members of the Radical Liberal Integration Movement, were also at the airport to meet Laino.

Laino was out of the country for more than 4 and 1/2 years after being expelled. He tried to return on six occasions, but was turned back by immigration and police. It has been reported that Laino will reside in the Guanes Gondra residence.

[Report from a mobile unit by Yiyo Riveros] Laino is still at the airport, where he is chatting with the press. There is a vast deployment of police along the highway to the airport. Many people have returned from the airport, but Laino is still there. He is at last in Paraguayan territory. [end report]

Makes Remarks to Press

PY251817 Asuncion Red Privada de Television in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Impromptu remarks by Domingo Laino to the media at Asuncion International Airport on his return from exile on 25 April -- recorded]

[Text] Yes, I am returning with the firm conviction that active nonviolence [la no violencia activa] must now be our main action. It is a delicate and difficult time in which all politicians, whether they be high-ranking or grassroots party members, must be aware that in order to mutually approach each other, there must be dialogue.

If we do not want excesses, if we do not want outbursts of insults, blood and violence, which I do not want and I say this in front of my wife, then we have to talk, we have to do away with very radicalized positions and we must start to work together.

The Catholic Church is the sponsor of a very interesting proposal which delighted and deeply stirred me when I heard about it while I was abroad: The national dialogue. I believe the national dialogue has been understood by the opposition, by the National Accord, by my party, and by its leader, Manuel Benitez Florentin. Everyone has understood it, including the other political parties, and it has also been understood by social movements, and I believe by large sectors of the Colorado Party, which is a large and popular party. But there is one structure that will not bend, and will not agree to dialogue. I believe all of us need to talk.

If the peaceful transition is convenient for anyone, then it is especially convenient for those who are on top. We and the Paraguayan people as a whole want a peaceful transition, but one in which our priorities are set. I believe peaceful transition is convenient for those who are on top, who must ensure that blood is not shed again within the borders of our fatherland. We have had two great wars and one great revolution, and it is our hope that we never again have this type of confrontation between brother Paraguayans.

Permission was granted for a faction of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party to hold a meeting in Luque. Permission was also granted to hold a solidarity rally supporting the Tavapy II peasants. It should be recalled that 5,000 persons participated in the rally. Therefore, we can say that in a certain way there is now more space for the opposition. I hope this process is continuing, that it is expanding and developing.

Further on Remarks

PY260121 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Apr 87 p 10

[Quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Granting great importance to the word "dialogue" as the basis for a transition process, [PLRA, Authentic Radical Liberal Party, leader] Domingo Laino has returned to the country after living in exile for over 4 years. A caravan welcomed him to Asuncion.

After 4 years, 4 months, and 11 days in exile, and just 7 minutes after the Aerolinas Argentinas plane which brought him back to Paraguay landed, Laino said today at 0920 at the international airport, "I am interested in contributing to achieve the unity of all Paraguayans through my participation and through my political activities so that together, all of us shall be able to achieve a transition. I am aware the transition process will be a difficult one. We have experienced 33 years of a closed-up governmental system, of a harsh system that many times has not understood the opposition spokesmen who have issued criticism to improve our political-economic system." [passage omitted]

Many citizens, who were not allowed to enter the airport because of the strict police control headed by Police Inspector Cantero, director of the political section of the police Investigation Department, gathered outside the airport and along the roads leading to Asuncion.

Speaking about the transition process, which was the issue on which he focused most of his statement, Laino said: "I know it is going to be hard and it will be a very difficult undertaking. It will be a challenge for us all, not only for the opposition but for the government as well." He added that it will be difficult undertaking "not only for those who are politically active and seeking the democratization of the country but also for those who several times have denied us that political space which those Paraguayans who do not agree with the present system have demanded. [passage omitted]

PRESIDENT GARCIA EXPLAINS SILVER SALES POLICY

PY251752 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia today received the support of some 30 representatives of small, medium, and large Peruvian silver-producing companies. The support follows his decision to suspend the sale of silver in defense of world market prices.

The president has stated that the suspension of sales of Peruvian silver is a sovereign and anti-imperialist decision.

[Begin Garcia recording] A few days ago our country made a sovereign and anti-imperialist decision similar to the one made on the foreign debt 2 years ago. We will not observe, nor will we submissively abide by the laws of the international market. We will try to change these laws to benefit our people. Peru produces 63 million ounces of silver a year, and in recent years the price has fluctuated around the very low level of $5.50 an ounce. The price has remained stable at that level for the last few years. We think this price is unfair and that the mineral is valued too low.

Moreover, although the dollar has lost value lately, we continue to be paid the same price for our silver. We had to make a decision, a prudent and careful decision similar to the one we make on the foreign debt. We have to seek better and fair prices for our products.

Therefore, before leaving for Mexico, I told the news agencies that one objective of my visit was to seek a way to coordinate the silver policies of Mexico, the largest silver producer, with those of Peru, the second largest producer, in order to bolster the price of the metal. In Mexico, we signed an agreement with President de la Madrid, and upon our return to Peru, we ordered the Peruvian State Mining Enterprise (MineroPeru) to stop selling silver futures, or silver for delivery a year from now.

A few days later we suspended private and public trading of Peruvian silver in order to stimulate better prices, and to avoid speculation, which causes temporary increases or decreases in the price. I have informed President Miguel de la Madrid of these decisions. Peruvian Central Reserve Bank President Leonel Figueroa, and the general manager and president of MineroPeru were in Mexico City yesterday. Because of this and our suspension of sales, the international market, which is very sensitive, reacted with an increase in the price of silver from $5.50 to $9.81 an ounce just a few minutes ago on the Chicago market. I want to tell the entire country that this fluctuation is not final. Prices can increase even more, or even decrease. What is important is that we have demonstrated that the international markets and the prices paid for our products are not fixed. They are speculative and in accordance with the interests of the large traders [preceding word in English].

We have demonstrated that a small country can shake the international market when it makes a firm decision, similar to the decision regarding the foreign debt. The rich countries and large traders will naturally try to defend themselves. They have stockpiles, they have silver deposits. They can make fictitious sales to try to reduce the price of our mineral in the world market. Nevertheless, I think that any maneuver can be countered by Peru which is in a position to act. [passage omitted].

The problem is not only with silver. We could even witness what I call a chain reaction [cascada mineral] in the world.

Silver will affect gold. The price of gold has increased noticeably in the last 5 days. It has surpassed $480 an ounce. If silver and gold prices can pull up the prices of other metals with them, Peru will obtain significant benefits. I do not mean that we have already overcome the problem of low prices, but we can force or set off a chain reaction of prices in order to recover the fair value of Latin American and Peruvian labor.

What must remain clear is that a country that surrenders submissively and quietly to the world market is condemned to be enslaved by the market. As long as countries with a nationalist view, with a Latin American view, like Peru and Mexico in this case, can impose certain conditions on the market, they will obtain better shares for the work of their citizens. Prices have increased for all minerals except silver, and this is not fair.

Silver has always been a precious metal, a treasure. Presently it is only considered a raw material for industry. The IMF does not accept it as a precious metal for reserves. It only accepts gold as such. We believe that if we stand firm, someday we will be able to see silver not only as an industrial raw material but also as a precious metal. [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS AEROPERU TO FLY TO U.S.

PY241453 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpt] In accordance with an agreement signed with the United States, the government has appointed Aeroperu to begin flying to the United States as of June 1987. The appointment was made official today, and it has created different reactions among representatives of Faucett [Peruvian Airline] and from APRA Deputy Luis Alvarado Contrera.

The Aeroperu chairman, however, praised the measure which he believes to be good for the country. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

PORTABLE DRUG LABORATORY FOUND -- The police have discovered a clandestine portable cocaine laboratory, and detained the owner and leader of the drug traffickers group that had more than 3 kg of cocaine paste. According to the police, the laboratory was discovered following surveillance of Carlos Enrique Alano Crisanto, head of a group of drug traffickers. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Apr 87 p 22 PY]

POLICE ARREST DRUG TRAFFICKERS -- Trujillo, 23 Mar -- The police have arrested the following drug traffickers: Antonio Laysa Suarez (36), Esteban Villalba Laysa (36), and Santos Jacobo Valencia Silopu (37) who is believed to be the head of an international drug trafficking gang. They were carrying 7.4 kg of cocaine base and are being detained at the Second Police Precinct of Trujillo. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Mar 87 p A 10 PY] -- The Puruvian Investigative Police have reported the capture of three drug traffickers and 7.7 kg of cocaine base in Otuzco Province, Tumbez Department. The traffickers are: Adam Cueva Jimenez (28), Antonio Castillo Pintado (25), and Miguel Guerrero Barrientos (21). [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 31 Mar 87 p A 13 PY]

'IMPORTANT' FISHING AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

PY260027 Montevido LA HORA in Spanish 18 Apr 87 p 3

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Uruguay has signed an important agreement with the USSR on fishing and related port activities.

The agreement is important not only for its contents but because it is an alternative to the multinational fishing companies who see in our country, particularly in the Colorado Party, excellent opportunities to make good short term, profits by plundering our fish supply.

The text of the agreement starts by stating it is based on "the friendly relations between our two countries and the UN's Law of the Sea."

The agreement acknowledges that "the Oriental Republic of Uruguay exerts its sovereign rights to investige, explore, and preserve its live maritime resources in the Uruguayan jurisdiction fishing waters."

The introduction to the document also points out "the importance of the fishing industry's scientific studies and the wish for coordinating these activities are also taken into consideration."

Article I points out that "the two parties agree to cooperate in the field of fishing activities, particularly in the development of technology and studies of live resources within Uruguay's 200-mile jurisdictional waters."

Article II states that "the two parties agree to create joint Soviet-Uruguayan fishing companies based on the trade regulations valid in the respective countries and taking into consideration the requirements for preserving the live resources, as well as Uruguay's need for such resources for its factories. To this end, Uruguay will make an annual determination of the possibilities of an eventual exploitation of the unused surplus of nontraditional species caught in Uruguayan waters, according to its internal regulations."

This article clearly establishes that the two parties have agreed our country will give priority to the needs of the already existing factories, and that the commercial exploitation by joint companies wil concentrate exclusively on the exploittion of nontraditional species, and not on the species that are already being exploited.

Article III establishes that "the two parties agree to cooperate in the following fields:

A) Advanced training of Uruguayan cadres in the Soviet Union and on Soviet fishing ships.

B) Technological development of coastal and ocean fishing techniques.

C) Construction and improvement of the coastal infrastructure including port facilities for the repair and servicing of fishing ships.

D) Repair of Soviet ships in Uruguayan shipyards."

This means that Uruguayan fishermen will be trained by the Soviets, with the resulting transference of technology, and that a Soviet southern cone fishing fleet will use the port of Montevideo for repairs and supplies.

Article IV states that "Uruguay promises to grant port facilities to the Soviet fishing ships, including relief crews, ship supply and repair, while the USSR promises to use these facilities according to the regulations established by this agreement."

Article V establishes that: 1. "The two parties agree to, either directly or through the appropriate international organizations, cooperate in adopting the necessary measures to preserve the fish reserves in the waters adjacent to the Uruguayan fishing jurisdiction."

2. Uruguayan and Soviet scientists and experts will undertake investigations and then analyze their results.

3. The two parties promise to exchange experts on optimum fishing techniques, processing, reproduction, preservation, use, and administration of live maritime resources." Therefore, it is established that the USSR will transfer a technology that will be of doubtless importance to our country and the development of our fishing sector."

In conclusion, the two countries agree to create a joint commission to examine the issues related to this agreement, and to suggest "recommendations for the appropriate implementation of this agreement." It is also established that the agreement will last 3 years and may be renewed.

SENATE SUPPORTS ARGENTINE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

PY250149 Paris AFP in Spanish 1413 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The Uruguayan Senate has expressed its support for the Argentine democratic institutions and for their efforts to consolidate the effectiveness of the constitutional system in keeping with the people's wishes.

In a statement issued following the military crisis faced by the government of President Raul Alfonsin, the Uruguayan lawmakers expressed their hope that Argentina will definitely strengthen its constitutional democratic system to guarantee its continuity, free of pressures and risks.

In addition, the senators state that they consider essential the respect for constitutional laws and the integrity of the normal operation of institutions, which should not become the target of threats that jeopardize the entire Latin American democratic system.

PEMEX DIRECTOR ON PRODUCTION, REVENUE, INVESTMENTS

PA250350 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Apr 87 p 16-a

[By Roberto Vizcaino]

[Text] Veracruz, Veracruz, 21 Apr -- Pemex Director Francisco Rojas Gutierrez has said that the stabilization of international oil prices in 1987 will ensure revenue for Mexico's economic recovery.

Interviewed during President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to this state, Rojas reiterated that Mexico will continue to produce 250,000 fewer barrels of oil daily to ensure price balance on the world crude oil market.

He emphasized: "To the extent that the world oil market is stabilized, we will reach our revenue goals and avoid squandering our primary raw material."

He said that in addition to a stronger position of Mexico's oil in the world as the result of a new price policy introduced in the international market by Mexico, an ambitious and aggressive petrochemical industrialization program is being carried out in the country. This program will permit the increased use of Mexican labor in producing oil by-products.

He also explained that the domestic industrialization of Mexico's oil is strengthened through important investment programs executed mainly at the petrochemical complexes of La Cangrejera in Morelos, Cosolacaque, and the all-important Pacific complex.

Rojas denied that the conclusion and terms of the Mexico-U.S. contract to increase the latter's strategic oil reserve will affect the country's revenues.

He commented that the Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry is now negotiating a new oil agreement with the United States. The agreement will be revealed by the two countries in due time.

He insisted that the conclusion of contracts will in no way lead to an imbalance in Mexico's oil market or revenues. He said: "The conclusion of the agreement for the U.S. strategic reserve had been fully anticipated."

Regarding the investment program to reactivate the national oil and petrochemical industries, he said, for example, in Veracruz 250 billion pesos will be contributed to strengthen the activities of the Minatitlan, Coatzacoalcos, Cosoloacoaque, Poza Rica, and Boca del Rio plants, as well as the port of Veracruz.

Similarly, 315 billion pesos have been invested to maintain and renovate the Pemex facilities to prevent accidents that might harm workers or towns where the plants are located.

Rojas said that some proposals have been received for possible accords with Japanese investors in financial, administrative, and commercial projects. Not only regarding oil, but in the petrochemical area as well. "However, between words and action there can be a great distance." In conclusion, he said: "No project has been finalized with the Japanese yet."

PEOPLE'S PARTY 'COMMUNIQUE' ON UNADE POLICIES

PA252255 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 25-26 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Yesterday the People's Party released a communique calling "for the formation of a political force capable of removing the UNADE's [National Democratic Union] servile people from power."

The party believes the expulsion of the government alliance members from the positions they currently hold should "open the way for a government that can guarantee participatory democracy and national liberation, a government that can outline an integrated plan for the true collective use of the canal complex."

In addition, the People's Party has reported on the passivity of the Panamanian authorities who have permitted U.S. intervention, authorized the DEA to meddle in every inch of our territory, and made it possible for Reagan to act like a proconsul in the area. He alone decides whether to give a certification to our countries. This also undermines our dignity and sovereignty." [quotation marks as published]

In view of this U.S. interventionism, "this government has not been to face aggression determinedly and courageously."

The People's Party members have said that all of these U.S. actions "aim to accomplish a purpose that is no longer concealed: to remain in the country after the year 2000 through some military pact that will prevent our third independence."

Without going into much detail, the local communists have asserted that in "Panama, contradictions between President Delvalle and the Torrijist officers have appeared."

SOUTHERN COMMAND COLONELS GAVE LA PRENSA DOCUMENTS

PA241844 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Apr 87 pp 1, 53

[Text] U.S. Colonels Neil Buttimer and Robert Herrick were singled out yesterday by a reliable source as the people who provided the documents that recently were published by the opposition daily LA PRENSA as part of an article signed by "Bueneau Varilla" [signatory for Panama of the 1904 Panama Canal Treaty with the United States] Roberto Eisenmann.

As one may recall, Buttimer and Herrick were the subject of a report by the Latin American Agency for Special Information Services, ALASEI, that appeared in CRITICA on 2 February under the heading "Colonels Sabotage Galvin."

That article reported tha Cols Buttimer and Herrick maintained that "the U.S. presence will continue far beyond the year 2000 and that Washington wants a more docile and obliging government in Panama."

The same sources said that the colonels "inspired the document" published by LA PRENSA as part of the reaction to the ALASEI report.

The ALASEI report said that Buttimer was chief of information of the Southern Command and that Herrick was director of an organization called SWORD [Small Wars Operations Research Directorate].

These two men, the source maintained, have been sabotaging the good work done by General John Galvin in connection with the compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

It also has been said that Buttimer and Herrick are involved in sabotage work, which they plan to take to extremes when the new general replacing Galvin arrives.

Meanwhile, it is strange that the publicized Panama "memorandum" mentions "alleged individuals who made statements," but LA PRENSA published neither photos nor names of those individuals." [quotation marks as published]

LEGISLATOR ACCUSED OF HEADING SMUGGLING RING

PA262225 Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish 26 Apr 87 pp 1, 31

[Text] According to Legislator Antonio Arias, smuggling operations organized by Legislator Camilo Gozaine on the Panamanian-Costa Rican border are responsible for the loss of over $46 million in exports from the Colon Free Zone. Arias has charged Gozaine with "involving" our country in a trade war with the international smuggling mafia.

Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have banned merchandise coming from Colon Free Zone from entering their territories until an agreement favorable to their economies is reached.

"Legislator Gozaine has an organized ring for smuggling from the Panamanian border with Costa Rica to the Central American countries. He has individuals picking up orders in San Jose, filling them, and then loading vans with goods at the Free Zone to take them to the other countries," Arias told the Sunday edition of EL SIGLO during an interview.

Arias explained that when we have government officials such as Gozaine taking part in smuggling merchandise from Panama to Central America, the individuals who own businesses at the border become accomplices so they in turn may also smuggle. It all fits together," he said. [quotation marks as published]

Some individuals who are mixed up in this racket apparently are exerting pressure on their respective finance ministers to reach a new agreement about the transportation of Panamanian goods from the Free Zone, because the finance ministers of the three countries mentioned met in Tela, Honduras, and reached an agreement. They will meet on Wednesday with Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia Arias and Commerce and Industry Minister Jose Bernardo Cardenas.

The trade commission of the Legislative Assembly held an urgent meeting with Ministers Cardenas and Abadia on Friday to seek solutions to the present problem and to draft a communique rejecting the methods of pressure used by the countries mentioned.

Concerning the existence of smuggling from the Free Zone to Central America, Foreign Minister Abadia said: "They have economic problems and are seeking ways to forge ahead; we have no evidence of what you are asking about."

Legislator Rigoberto Paredes, president of the trade commission, maintained that no such smuggling exists and it is each country's duty to repress smuggling in its territory. He added that the measure of closing the frontiers to Panamanian goods might have repercussions on the Contadora Group negotiations and he accused Christian Democratic legislator Guillermo Cochez and the Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala of Christian Democratic leanings -- of being to blame for the measure.

BRIEFS

PRESS SECRETARY APPOINTED -- Jose Hernandez was appointed the new press secretary of the Presidency of the Republic yesterday. He replaces Julio Ortega C. who resigned that post on Monday. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Apr 87 p A-4 PA]

AREA FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA241824 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0131 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Guatemala, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Salvadoran, Honduran, Costa Rican, and Guatemalan foreign ministers met for 1 and 1/2 hours to analyze the Arias peace plan for Central America.

The meeting was held under the strictest security measures with the understanding that the ministers will make statements on the meeting's results.

The foreign ministers were welcomed at the Guatemala International Airport by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez. Then they traveled to Antigua City, 45 km west of Guatemala City.

It has been reported in San Jose, Costa Rica that this meeting seeks to clarify some of the objections made by Honduras and El Salvador to the peace plan presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

It also has been reported that the Guatemalan meeting is a preparatory meeting for the Esquipulas summit on 25 and 26 June to analyze the Costa Rican document.

The Costa Rican commission, which is gathering the recommendations from the area governments, ends its tour in Guatemala today.

The Costa Rican proposal, personally prepared by President Oscar Arias, promotes a cease-fire in the region, holding talks between the parties in conflict, and free and democratic elections.

[Words indistinct] in a summit, which could be the Esquipulas summit on 25 and 26 June.

He explained that given the characteristics of the conflicts in each country, it will be very difficult for the Central American presidents to decree a cease-fire. A cease-fire must be the product of an agreement between the rebel troops and the armed forces of the nations where conflicts exist.

BELIZE

PRC SIGNS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL242037 Bridgetown CANA in English 2236 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, April 23, CANA -- Belize and China have signed an economic cooperation agreement under which the Beijing Government is to provide technical assistance, a cash grant of BEL100,000 dollars (1 BEL dol; 50 cents U.S.) and a long term, interest free loan of almost BEL 3 million dollars, it was officially announced here.

The pact was signed during the two-week visit to the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Korea by Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel.

Esquivel and his delegation, which included Foreign Minister Dean Barrow, returned to Belize last weekend.

In China Esquivel held discussions with Chinese Government officials, including Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Li Xiannian.

Esquivel said the talks covered a wide range of international and bilateral issues and focused particularly on the possibility of Chinese/Belize joint ventures in the areas of deep-sea fishing and light manufacturing.

China has also offered to purchase 1,000 tons of Belize sugar at a preferential price thirty percent in excess of the world market price.

In South Korea, the Belize delegation met with Prime Minister Ho Sin-yong and President Chon Tu-hwan.

As a result of that visit Esquivel and his delegation returned home with a gift of BEL400,000 dollars worth of Industrial and farming equipment from the South Koreans.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN REPORTS 45 ARMY CASUALTIES IN 3 DAYS

PA262310 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The FMLN has inflicted 45 casualties on Military Detachment 1 troops [words indistinct] Azmitia and Cobra Battalions of the decimated 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango in 3 days of fighting. [passage omitted]

On 22 April, Cobra Battalion of Military Detachment 1 entered Las Vueltas sector to continue its terrorist actions against the civilian population. We have been reporting that these troops were headed for San Jose Las Flores. On this day, Caceres Cabrera's frightened troops stepped on mines planted before them at (?EL Zueles) hill. The troops suffered one casualty. Two other casualties were inflicted on this battalion in combat in (Picahuite) and Tierra Blanca Cantons, Las Vueltas jurisdiction. On 23 April, our units continued to wear out the demoralized [words indistinct] battalion, whose troops stepped into a minefield in El Portillo de las Vueltas, (Cerro Laguna), and El Caballete, all of them in San Jose Las Flores jurisdiction.

The battalion suffered six casualties due to the revolutionary mines. Also on this day, 23 April, strong clashes occurred near Loma El Caballete, Cerro Tizate, where the enemy suffered two other casualties with rifle fire. At 1030 on 22 April, a revolutionary mine wounded a soldier. At 1130, our men wounded one of the enemy with rifle fire at Cerro La Pantera. At 1330, Caceres Cabrera's harassed troops suffered two casualties at La Paz, El Porrillo, and El Tamarindo: One was killed and the other was badly wounded.

At 1100 on 24 April, Caceres Cabrera's troops again fell victim to our mines -- this time in Cerro El Gallo, San Jose Las Flores, where a mine inflicted one more casualty. At 1000 on 24 April, I Battalion of Military Detachment 1 suffered one casualty at the peripheral heights leading to San Jose Las Flores as the result of a revolutionary mine. At 1030, they suffered another casualty in [words indistinct]. At 1730, our units engaged I Battalion in (?La Basnita), San Jose Las Flores, and inflicted one more casualty with rifle fire. In all, I Battalion of Military Detachment 1 of Chalatenango suffered 22 casualties in 3 days of combat in the San Jose Las Flores jurisdiction. These casualties include a Military Detachment 1 lieutenant, who lost a leg.

We will now detail the casualties inflicted on the Cobra Battalion troops in Chalatenango's west, where our units surrounded these troops and hit them until the battalion was considerably decimated:

At 0800 on 23 April, a reinforced company of the reorganized Cobra Battalion entered Los Planes Canton, La Palma. Our units engaged these troops near the town's graveyard and the water tank, all this in the general area of La Palma. Simultaneously, other guerrillas clashed with the enemy in El Chile, Los Chaguites, and La Cumbre. The enemy strength was reduced and was forced to request air support at 1030. Three rocket-firing helicopters appeared and began desperately to strafe houses in Los Planes and civilian vehicles moving from La Palma to Los Planes on the highway. The clashes continued. The support by Bustillo's helicopters was completely useless. The Cobra Battalion's demoralization and fear were such that they requested more air support to be able to immediately leave the area.

At 1100, two other helicopters arrived to assist the troops, one a rocket-firing UH-1N and the other a transport aircraft, and to evacuate the Cobra's large number of dead and wounded. These two other helicopters indiscriminately strafed and fired rockets on places near Los Planes. It has been reported that our men faced these aircraft and tirelessly fought the enemy troops, who were completely demoralized and wanted desperately to escape our fire.

At 1130, more air support arrived in the form of still two more rocket-firing UH-1H helicopters and a C-47 plane, which helped the surrounded Cobra Battalion escape the encirclement. Rocket-firing helicopters began arriving at 1030 and continued to arrive until 1730. The Air Force continued to bomb the area during this time in an attempt to cover the withdrawal of the demoralized Cobra Battalion troops.

As the result of this encirclement maneuver against the Cobra Battalion, they suffered 21 casualties, including dead and wounded. The dead include a corporal, a gunner, and an engineer. We lost companeros Saul and Jaime.

At 0915 on 22 April, the Azmitia Battalion, now formed by troops of several garrisons, entered El Terrero hamlet on Dulce Nombre de Maria Street leading to San Fernando. In the clash that ensued, the enemy suffered two casualties, which include the wounding of a sergeant and a private. In all, the troops of Colonels Rubio and Caceres Cabrera in Chalatenango suffered 45 casualties during the failed raids after the Atlacatl Battalion's defeat.

FMLN CRITICIZES DUARTE'S STAND ON 1 MAY PROTEST

PA262242 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] The antipopular governments have always remained in power on the basis of violence and repression. The Duarte regime, which is the most antipopular regime in our nation's history, has raised violence to institutional status, establishing in our country true state terrorism.

According to Jose Napoleon Duarte, any idea or statement against his political aberrations is subversion. Marxism, crime, and many other words are, in a country like ours, a license to be murdered at the hands of the Army and the death squads.

According to Duarte, any demand for work is an act of subversion. Demands for bread for one's children, housing for the homeless, and relocation for displaced persons are unconstitutional provocations that must be suppressed.

Now in view of the scheduling of mass events to celebrate 1 May, Duarte has come out stating that preparations are being made to hold international Marxist events, provocations by the FMLN, and so forth. These statements are nothing but a (?direct) threat against the people's movement. Duarte already has opened the door to terrorism by death squads in San Salvador and is now preparing his repressive corps for true war against the workers.

The cause of the workers [words indistinct]. The hunger, the unemployment, the tax package, the hike in the cost of living, and repression are imposed on our people from Moscow, Cuba, Libya, or Nicaragua. These and all other antipopular measures come from the presidential house and the Armed Forces High Command headquarters in San Salvador, and are ordered by Jose Napoleon Duarte himself.

The threats by Duarte, [Culture and Communications Minister], Rey Prendes [words indistinct] are nothing but an expression of the regime's fear of the people's avalanche, which is approaching. It is a harbinger of the definitive end of the dictatorship in our homeland.

Nobody wants Duarteism any longer, and the cause of the working class is advancing at history's pace [words indistinct]. Statements by Duarte or Rey Prendes cannot [words indistinct]. They can already see [words indistinct] when the full weight of popular justice will be applied to them.

GUATEMALA

STATE EMPLOYEES PLAN GENERAL STRIKE OVER WAGES

PA242142 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0316 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Apr (CAN-EFE) -- More than 200,000 state employees will initiate work-stoppages tomorrow that will peak on Sunday with a general strike aimed at securing a salary increase and other "social assistance" from the government.

The secretary general of the National Association of Middle Level Teachers (ANEEM), Carlos Gomez, has told ACAN-EFE that "public administration will be paralyzed" because the strike will be backed by 250,000 state employees.

He noted that "the government will not agree to the request that has been made on several occasions, and this is why the general strike will be declared." The labor leader said "precautionary measures have been taken so that the movement cannot be destroyed." He noted that 100,000 secondary school students will back the strike.

The labor movement was initiated by 57,000 Finance Ministry employees. Thirty-five unions from various state departments joined it this week. The leaders of the state employees' unions are scheduled to meet this afternoon with President Vinicio Cerezo to state their demand for a $40 salary increase and an "effective control" of staples prices.

The union leaders also will demand a revision of some laws that negatively affect state employees "including the civil service law," the ANEEM leader said.

COLONEL SHOT TO DEATH IN GUATEMALA CITY

PA241810 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The body riddled with 30 gunshot wounds of Colonel Oscar Hernandez Guillen, who according to preliminary unofficial reports was murdered by a group of armed men, has been recovered. Hernandez Guillen was murdered at the intersection of 7th Street and 8th Avenue in Guatemala City's Zone 11, where armed men intercepted the car in which he was traveling.

Miss Janet Ortiz, who was riding with Hernandez Guillen in the car, is in critical condition after the assailants shot her eight times.

Attention listeners of the Guatemala flash newscast. We have a last minute report.

Col Oscar Hernandez Mendez [as heard] was a brother of former Defense Minister General Jaime Hernandez Mendez. He was on active duty as commander of a reserve unit in the Escuintla military zone. This was officially reported by military spokesman Roberto Letona.

HONDURAS

CONGRESS PRESIDENT: U.S. SUPPORT 'INCONSISTENT'

PA260310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2223 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (AFP) -- Carlos Mantoya, president of the Honduran legislative assembly, said today that Honduras will seek the support of Western Europe and the socialist bloc "to achieve neutrality," because "U.S. support is inconsistent."

Montoya said: "The United State is a democracy with thousands of errors." He also charged: "Many congressmen have been entirely misinformed about the region's problems. By decreasing aid for Honduras, they seek to contradict President Ronald Reagan's plan, thereby harming Honduras."

Montoya referred to both the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee's refusal to sell 12 F-5E fighters to Honduras and the House of Representatives' elimination of a special $300-million allocation for Central America and its decreasing economic aid for Honduras from $65 million to $55 million.

Regarding the position of Christopher Dodd, chairman of the the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Subcommittee, who opposed the sale of the F-5E fighters -- arguing that Nicaragua could react by purchasing Soviet-made MiG-21 fighters -- Montoya said: "It seems these people require another type of stimulus."

He added: "We are even willing to visit the socialist bloc for relations with socialist congressmen, because U.S. support is inconsistent; its solidarity is not permanent."

He also said: "The Americans are subject to domestic political fluctuations. Their press is very influential. Thus Honduras must seek its neutrality with the support of Europe and the world to ensure it."

After explaning that he spoke "on behalf of the Congress, not the Honduran Government," Montoya asserted: "I believe in the international community. We, the Third World countries, must remain independent and seek development."

"We want to expand our trade with Europe, with the socialist or democratic regimes. Of course, we belong to the latter, yet we do not want to be isolated and to increase our unilateral dependence on the United States."

He recalled that a French parliamentary commission recently visited Honduras. He announced that a Honduran congressional commission will visit Germany. "We also want to visit the Soviet Union and other countries."

He pointed out, however, that "it is very easy for some to demand that Honduras keep away from the United States, but they do not consider that Europe's economic aid for Central America reached $80 million in 5 years" as compared to "the $250 million" that Washington approves for this nation in 1 year. [as received]

He added: "We need the F-5E planes. We are aware of the high cost of their maintenance, but we already have the necessary pilots and the airports."

He reported that Israel has agreed to supply "Kfir" fighters to Honduras in case the U.S. Congress refuses the sale of the U.S. fighters. The "Kfir" plane is similar to and performs slightly better than the F-5E.

12 NICARAGUANS WHO ENTERED ILLEGALLY RETURNED

PA250249 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Through the Foreign Relations Secretariat, the Honduran Government yesterday afternoon turned over to the Nicaraguan consul 11 Nicaraguan citizens who had been detained for illegally entering Honduran territory.

The group, originally including 12 people, entered Honduran territory by crossing the Segovia River in Costa de Mosquitos, Gracias a Dios Department. One of the members of the group, a pregnant women, was returned to Nicaragua for humanitarian reasons a few days ago.

These are the names of the 11 people who will be repatriated and all of whom belong to the Atlantic Autonomy Committee [Comite de Autonomia del Atlantico], an organization created by the Sandinist government: Rayli Bensy, Granel Herrera, Harry Kitler Lacayo, Delmo Lopez, Bregan Sanders, David Mercado Flores, Nilio Lopez, and Jacinto Nilio Perez. [number of names as published] The name of the Nicaraguan pregnant women who was released previously is Casilita de Manzanares.

All of the Nicaraguans released are in good health and were properly treated by the Honduran authorities during the time they were detained in the country for their illegal entry.

MILITARY UNAWARE OF NICARAGUAN INDIAN KIDNAPPING

PA251715 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2241 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Honduran Armed Forces affirmed that they know nothing about the kidnapping of 80 Nicaraguan Indians allegedly perpetrated by Honduran troops, according to reports made in Managua by an Indian leader.

Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, chief of the military press office, told ACAN-EFE that they have no information about the reports that Honduran soldiers have kidnapped at least 80 Indians in Zelaya Norte on the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast as reported by Miskito leader Hazel Law.

The Indian leader made this report to the progovernment daily EL NUEVO DIARIO in Puerto Cabezas, where 200 delegates from the various Nicaraguan ethnic minorities are discussing an autonomy plan.

Suarez Benavides said that "it is very strange that they are discussing a kidnapping, because it would have been necessary for Honduran soldiers to raid Nicaraguan territory to carry out an action of this nature and this has not occurred."

He added that the Nicaraguan region of Zelaya Norte bordering Honduras is a difficult region to travel. Moreover, to enter Nicaragua it is necessary to cross the Rio Coco or Segovia, which serve as the border between the two countries.

Suarez Benavides said that the Nicaraguan Government has not made any official charge. Nevertheless, he added, he will request information from the 5th Infantry Brigade Command stationed in Durzuna, Gracias a Dios Department, in eastern Honduras, on the border with Nicaragua.

It has been reported that on Thursday afternoon, Honduras delivered 11 Miskito Indians to Nicaragua. The Miskitos were captured on 19 January when sailing in Rio Coco waters.

NICARAGUA

CONTRA PRISONERS KILLED DURING ESCAPE ATTEMPT

PA230144 Paris AFP in Spanish 0041 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 22 Apr (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry has reported that three members of a counterrevolutionary commando unit who were involved in the blowing up of the electricity power network and captured by Sandinist security, were killed today when "they attacked their guards and tried to escape."

The three "contras," identified as Jose Picado, Pedro Gonzalez, and Mario Garcia, were arrested with six other rebels on 1 March in the Llano Grande area in Matagalpa, located 200 km north of Managua. They were arrested shortly after blowing up a high-tension tower.

A communique by the Interior Ministry said the men died while attempting to escape from their guards as they were being taken to the town of San Jose de Humures, Matagalpa Department, north of Nicaragua. They were going there to locate two caches of explosives buried in the area.

"After we arrived in the area, while they were locating the exact place of the alleged cache, inmate Pedro Gonzalez attacked one of his guards. He and the other two prisoners tried to escape. The guards were forced to fire to prevent the escape and, as a result, all the prisoners were killed," the official report stated.

Picado and Garcia had been identified barely 2 weeks ago here as the chief and deputy chief of the dynamite commando unit that entered Nicaragua through Matagalpa in December.

The group of nine inmates was introduced to the news media in Managua on 1 April. They had said that they entered the country along with 111 FDN sappers who were scattered throughout several sectors of the country.

EPS KILLS 9 CONTRA 'SABOTEURS,' SEIZES MATERIEL

PA262019 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1931 GMT 26 Apr 87

["Information bulletin" issued by the Ministry of Defense' Public and Foreign Relations Directorate in Managua -- dated 26 April]

[Text] During the weekend, the EPS detected a group of nine terrorists belonging to the FDN's Jorge Salazar Regional Command involved in blowing up pylons. The nine terrorists were carrying a large amount of explosives to sabotage the civilian population and the economy.

The group of saboteurs was completely annihilated at El Esquirin Hill, 4 km to the southeast of San Jose, Paiwas, Boaco Department. EPS troops seized the following war materiel: 24 charges of C-4 explosives, 4 crates of 100 Portuguese-made detonating aluminum capsules, 4 walkie-talkies, a roll of safety fuse cord, a detonator, several crates of U.S.-made delay fuses, 9 AK rifles, 8 mines, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 60mm mortar, and [word indistinct] for FAL and AK rifle cartridges.

Defense Minister on Casualties

PA260320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2116 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega reported today that about 1,700 soldiers and "contras" have been killed during the past 4 months in the central and northern part of the territory that borders on Honduras.

The EPS and the Nicaraguan "contras" engaged in fierce fighting in the regions of Wina, Nueva Segovia, and San Jose de Bocay, on the Honduran border, up until Friday, he announced.

Humberto Ortega said that some 800 anti-Sandinist rebels have penetrated Nicaraguan territory to "set up a military base."

The defense minister charged that troops of the Honduran Army 110th Battalion based in Choluteca and El Paraiso leveled artillery and rifle fire at the Sandinist military border posts.

Gen Ortega said that the military actions staged since January to date have left in the rebel ranks "1,400 dead, 400 wounded, and 100 captured."

During the "most fierce and intense fighting" in the central and northern part of the country, the Sandinist troops sustained 300 dead, the defense minister announced.

Humberto Ortega made a military assessment of the war over the past 4 months, after inaugurating in the Palace of the Revolution an exhibition of the weapons and military ammunition seized from the "contras" since the war was launched against this government.

Also, Gen Humberto Ortega, without going into details, disclosed that a "special commando force" of the Sandinist Army attacked a "counterrevolutionary" military training center in a sector of the Honduran border.

"The special commando left many dead and wounded" Ortega noted, without indicating the number of rebel casualties or the place or date of the action.

The defense minister said that there were "armed clashes" today in the jungle region of Wina, Nicaragua, and near San Jose de Bocay, a region shared with Honduras.

"The enemy seeks to infiltrate forces in a propaganda ploy aimed at having one believe that it has secured access to a territory from which it will be able to launch operations and, furthermore, which will serve as a platform for an invasion" against Nicaragua, he said.

Gen Ortega said that troops, artillery, and airborne forces are fighting in those border regions of Honduras today and "are already forcing them to retreat."

The military officer also charged that a group of aircraft is trying to supply the rebel forces, considering that the rainy season is approaching, but, in any event, the thrust by the Army has thwarted all those intentions.

The aircraft supplying arms to the "contras," according to the defense minister, "come from Salvadoran and Honduran territory."

Also, he said that in the region of Nueva Guinea, rebel groups are trying to "install themselves" to sabotage the highways of Zelaya Sur, Chontales, and Rama.

Referring to the death of three rebels captured last March in the northern region who tried to escape this week, he said that now the government "will deal sternly and with revolutionary justice" against all saboteurs of the country's economy.

"All those who were captured trying to blow up an electricity pylon will be wiped out at that specific moment," he stated.

Humberto Ortega explained that it is time to adopt a "belligerent attitude" against the "assassins and saboteurs" who are harming the country's economy and causing grief to Nicaraguan families.

FDN Denies EPS Claims

PA252055 Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (AFP) -- The FDN stated today in Tegucigalpa that it is not true that the EPS has attacked its bases at the border, as announced today by the Defense Ministry in Managua.

Referring to Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega's announcement that his Army had inflicted "a considerable number of dead and wounded" during a commando attack against contra bases, FDN spokesperson Adela Icaza said the Sandinists are "scheming."

Icaza had initially said to AFP that "peace prevailed at the Honduran border area." However, during a second telephone call, she asserted that fierce fights are currently under way in northern Nicaragua." However, she denied the Sandinist attack reports both times.

According to the FDN, approximately 8,500 contras operate "deep inside Nicaragua" and have shot down "12 [number as received] Soviet-made helicopters" so far this year. The last one was shot down on 5 April at Mesas Carbonero, 9 km north of Esteli, one of the most important cities in northern Nicaragua.

SOTO MEETS WITH USSR 'FRIENDSHIP' DELEGATION

FL241442 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Lionel Soto, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, received today the chiefs of the delegations that participated in the international meeting of associations of friendship with the USSR which concluded recently in our capital. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the positive results of the event. The visitors greatly valued the work being conducted by the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association. They had the opportunity to witness its results during their stay on the island.

Comrade Lionel Soto underscored the importance our party gives to the development and strengthening of friendship with the Soviet Union.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH AFGHANISTAN

FL241410 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A scientific-technical cooperation agreement between the Republic of Cuba and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was signed today in our capital. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca signed the document on behalf of Cuba and Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil did the same for Afghanistan.

Among other agreements, the document provides for the exchange of specialized technicians for technical assistance and exchange of scientific-technical documents, information, and publications.

The two ministers said that the agreement is an important step toward the improvement of the peoples' life-styles and the development of the two countries.

'PROTOCOL OF UNDERSTANDING' SIGNED WITH PERU

FL242253 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A Cuban mission from the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Jose Gonzalez Torres, director of the Los Naranjos Livestock Breeding Enterprise, today concluded a visit to Peru where he studied methods of cooperation in this field.

Gonzalez Torres, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, has expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved during his stay of more than 1 week in Lima.

The delegation also includes engineer Joaquin Ruiz, chief of the Agriculture Ministry's Feed Department, and they held talks with government officials and private businessmen to discuss possible trade areas.

Among the most outstanding aspects of the visit, the Cuban officials underscored a meeting with Remigio Morales Bermudez, Peruvian agriculture minister, and the signing of a protocol of understanding on future cooperation.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA DISCUSSED

FL240101 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] (Samuel Alberto Joy), director of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute, said this afternoon in Havana that Cuba and Colombia have begun exchanging trade information even though diplomatic relations have not yet been established.

The Colombian official underscored the discussions he has held with Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and with representatives from the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

[Joy) said the idea was to explore trade possibilities in their respective markets. He said the current Colombian Administration believes in universal trade relations. Discussions on bilateral interests have been useful, he said.

The director of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute said there is a bilateral reciprocal credit agreement valued at $500,000 but it has not been utilized. Even that agreement is very limited, he said, and this could be the time to adapt it to the possibilities and opportunities available now. (Joy) added that Cuban and Colombian authorities have exchanged lists of products to develop reciprocal proposals and a possible trade agreement.

The Colombian official said the Group of 77 meeting has been progressive, despite political and economic differences, and there is a willingness to create a consensus that would allow underdeveloped countries to share common positions.

U.S. ANTIDRUG OPERATION IN GUATEMALA CRITICIZED

PA241455 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

["Note" feature by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] The U.S. Air Force on Tuesday began an operation that violates the territory of the Guatemalan area of El Peten, the consequences of which can be disastrous for the region's inhabitants, flora, and fauna. With the Guatemalan Government's authorization, the U.S. planes are spraying an insecticide -- 2-4 D gliphosphate [glifosfato] -- that was banned in the United States because it is a carcinogen.

Faced with protests and expressions of alarm by the press and various political sectors, the Guatemalan Government said that the operation is being carried out to destroy marijuana and poppy crops.

The fact is that the entire ecological balance of the region is in danger because, in addition to the insecticide 2-4 D gliphosphate, the U.S. planes are also using the potent pesticide malathion, which has pernicious effects on insects that benefit agriculture, fish, and other animal species.

On Wednesday, the Guatemalan press reminded readers that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other U.S. agencies, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, prohibited the use of 2-4 D gliphosphate in the United States because of its carcinogenic effects.

It is outrageous that while scientists from around the world are fighting tooth and nail to find medication that will prevent cancer, the U.S. Air Force is spraying insecticides that cause cancer and alter all life forms in a geographical area.

According to the latest reports, the use of the dangerous insecticide 2-4 D gliphosphate was banned in Guatemala. However, in the end, the government yielded to pressures by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the ban was revoked.

It is not surprising that with the habitual contempt that it shows toward the Latin American countries, the U.S. Government is carrying out this operation brandishing the worn-out banner of the antidrug struggle. However, the fact that the Guatemalan authorities allowed this action, which criminally violates national sovereignty, strongly attracts attention.

COMMENTARY ON IMPACT OF U.S. IMMIGRATION BILL

PA240451 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The already marred relations between the United States and Mexico will enter another difficult phase when the arbitrary Simpson-Rodino immigration bill becomes effective on 5 May. According to the bill, aliens who cannot justify their permanence in the United States before January 1982 will be deported to their country of origin. Many will not be able to meet all the requirements needed to legalize their alien status because they lack official documents to prove how long they have been residing in that country. Approximately 3 million Mexican workers will be affected by Washington's new measure. Washington is now trying to arbitrarily end a policy that it had encouraged for a long time.

For years, diverse U.S. administrations encouraged the entry into the country of thousands of Mexicans in order to obtain cheap labor and to hire someone to do the kinds of work U.S. citizens scorned. The United States is now trying to stop the immigration flow. Until 5 May arrives, the United States has reinforced its military presence along the border with Mexico. Marines and Vietnam war veterans have been added to the border patrols to help them in their constant repression of undocumented Mexicans.

The immigration bill constitutes a new ploy by the Ronald Reagan administration to pressure Mexico in particular, which has maintained a firm stance regarding its foreign policy and its standing in the Contadora Group. The problem of the undocumented Mexicans is another rung in the campaign of slanders that the United States is waging against Mexico. The campaign has gone from accusing top Mexican officials of being involved in drug production and trafficking to alleging fraud during the elections that placed President Miguel de la Madrid in office.

Besides constituting a problem for undocumented Mexicans, the immigration bill poses huge problems for the Mexican Government.

In addition to the inflation rate and a foreign debt of over $100 billion, the Mexican Government will have to deal with the thousands of Mexicans who will return to their country looking for jobs. Diverse Mexican sectors have charged that the new bill is at odds with the principles of coexistence and human rights. It is unfair that workers who in the past helped the U.S. economy will now be expelled. So far, Mexican authorities have reported the adoption of measures to receive the hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who are expected to be deported and to ensure right conditions for them.

Moreover, the new U.S. bill even represents a blow to regimes favorable to Washington, such as the one Jose Napoleon Duarte heads in El Salvador. This bill entails the deportation of hundreds of thousands of persons who will worsen the permanent crisis of their respective countries. The measure is also an action against the safety of countless refugees who will certainly fall prey to repressive corps if they return to their countries. These people had temporarily eluded the persecution of those corps when they fled abroad.

GROUP OF 77 DEBATE, CONFERENCE COMES TO END

Debate Over Declaration

FL231928 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Report by Amado Cordoba Herrera]

[Text] On the next to last day of the Sixth Group of 77 Conference, the meetings continue behind closed doors at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. This conference is being held to prepare for the UNCTAD meeting to be held in Geneva in July.

According to the announced agenda, today will be the last day for general debates. Because of the constructive and cooperative spirit that has surrounded this meeting, the attention of the participants is fixed on the contents of the political declaration of the conference that seeks to strengthen the negotiating role of the Group of 77. According to unofficial sources, the political document has already been analyzed by the group of Latin American countries. These countries suggested several amendments to the document in an attempt to present a clearer and more concise picture of the matters discussed at the meeting and of its struggle for a more just international economic order. The African and Asian groups are now studying the document and the Latin American suggestions.

Likewise, it was learned that, because of its importance, the subject of future economic cooperation among the developing countries has taken up much of the time of the technical committee. Regarding this, Eduardo Delgado, official spokesman for the meeting, said:

[Begin recording] Economic cooperation among the developing countries has improved and its best achievement has been in the field of trade. One of the things the technical committee is doing is negotiating -- they already decided on the creation and now they are negotiating -- the overall system for preferential trade. This system will only be implemented among the developing countries. With this system, the developing countries will give preferential treatment to other developing countries in an attempt to increase trade. [end recording]

It is expected that the work of the sixth ministerial conference of the Group of 77 will conclude tomorrow with the approval of the final documents.

Chinese Delegate on Meeting

FL240257 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2343 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] After expressing his appreciation for the welcome his delegation received in Cuba, Wang Runsheng, Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade [title as received] said he hopes the results of the sixth meeting of the Group of 77 in Havana will be good.

Speaking to Radio Reloj, the Chinese representative said the steps taken here are of great importance. He said that China requested to attend the meeting and is very interested in the agreements that will be reached at the Seventh UNCTAD Meeting, which will be held in Geneva.

Wang Runsheng expressed his optimism about increasing relations with Cuba beyond the spheres of trade and economics.

Political Declaration Drafted

FL242005 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Report by Amado Cordoba Herrera]

[Text] The Group of 77 assumes it responsibilities in the struggle for its own development and hopes that the developed countries will assume their responsibility in the current economic crisis. This sentence appears in one of the paragraphs of the draft political declaration of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 that began at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on Monday. The document, unofficially seen by Antena Uno, will be known as the Havana Declaration. It is a guideline for joint actions in the economic relations with the developed countries and for cooperation among the countries of the so-called Third World.

Likewise, the document not only describes the causes for the current economic crisis and its consequences on the underdeveloped countries, but also suggests specific measures for long-term solutions and immediate solutions to be presented at the upcoming UNCTAD meeting to be held in Geneva in July. At this moment the drafting committee is giving the final touches to this document which will be presented to the plenary of the conference for approval.

Meanwhile, in view of the closing session which is scheduled for today, the board of directors and technical committee continue to meet behind closed doors. Problems of translation and reproduction of the final documents seem to be delaying the conclusion of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 which has already been described by many as a victory for Unified action of the African, Asian, and Latin American countries for a more justified international economic order.

Final Declaration Refined

FL251250 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The last plenary meeting session of the Group of 77 was refining the final declaration during the predawn hours today. Sources close to the meeting said a cooperation climate and absence of antagonism prevailed during the 4 days of deliberation. They added that because of the numerous analyses, views, and opinions that had to be included, it was impossible to shorten the period of time of work.

Up to now, the text of the conference's main document has not been revealed but it is expected it will include very positive proposals that will be taken to the Seventh UNCTAD Meeting in Geneva.

CASTRO MEETS GROUP OF 77 ARGENTINE DECLARATION

PA261417 Paris AFP in Spanish 0256 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Havana, 25 Apr AFP -- On Saturday, President Fidel Castro held a long luncheon meeting with the members of the Argentine delegation to the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, headed by Bernaldo Grispun, secretary of planning. The luncheon and friendly conversation, which lasted several hours, was held at the home of Luis R. Claraso de la Vega, Argentine ambassador to Cuba.

According to diplomatic sources, the meeting was cordial and frank. The Cuban president, who spoke to the delegates about various international and economic policy topics, showed special interest in the recently overcome "Easter crisis" of the military in Argentina.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERCOSMOS PROGRAM MARKED

FL250300 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Cuba is advancing in its economic, political, social, and scientific development. The studies and work done in space for peaceful purposes through the Intercosmos program is an example of this. Throughout the past 20 years, cooperation relations have been strengthened with socialist countries, especially with the Soviet Union.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Intercosmos program, the Cuban Academy of Sciences held a news conference today to discuss the scientific work performed and its results.

[Begin Reynel Jimenez Arzola, vice president of the Intercosmos Council recording] The main goal of the Intercosmos program is to conduct research in physics, communications, meteorology, biology, medicine, and teledetection to learn the characterists and possibilities of space and use it for peaceful purposes. [end recording]

The expertise accumulated by Cuban specialists and scientists during the preparation of the Intercosmos program has allowed the discovery of important geographic characteristics in the country such as seismic zones, areas of intense salinity, elements contaminating the port of Havana, and the location of fishing areas. In the future, it will be used to develop new maps of Cuban terrain for the purpose of discovering more natural resources.

CASTRO TALKS WITH MEDICAL FAIR PARTICIPANTS

FL242354 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The international fair, Health for All, was visited this afternoon by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who expressed much interest in the modern technology and medications on display. Fidel held a lively dialogue with technicians and specialists asking about all the details of this grand exhibit, the largest held in our country.

By 1800 [2200 GMT] this evening, thousands of people had visited the international fair, which concluded its first work day today.

Also today, the first artificial heart went on display in the Cuba section of the exhibit. The heart was created by specialists from the National Scientific Research Center and other institutions. [passage omitted]

BLAS ROCA DIES 25 APRIL AFTER LONG ILLNESS

FL251346 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1132 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee announces to the people with deep regret that our comrade, Blas Roca Calderio, died today at 0540 after a long illness.

The body of the dear communist leader, forerunner of the struggle for socialism who has an exemplary record in defending the cause of the people, will be shown at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument at the Revolution Square. We will all be able to pay tribute there today from 1900. The eulogy will take place tomorrow Sunday [26 April] at 1600 at the Revolution Square. The PCC urges the people to attend the memorial ceremony for the unforgettable Comrade Blas.

ORGANIZER OUTLINES ANAP CONGRESS TOPICS

FL222352 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[By Jorge Luis Batista]

[Text] Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the committee organizing the Seventh Congress of the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP, said the topics that will be discussed will include agrarian development, cooperatives, and the peasants' positive contribution to the transformation of the country and the construction of socialism.

During the plenary meeting of the ANAP provincial committee in Granma, Lugo Fonte said that the delegations to the Seventh ANAP Congress will be announced on 2 May and called on the delegates to fulfill the agreements made by the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo in reference to the cooperative movement.

It was also announced at the plenary meeting that 5 of the 20 new cooperatives have been created to work in the province until 17 May, in commemoration of the Seventh ANAP Congress.

BARBADOS

COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL INTEGRATION REITERATED

FL201835 Bridgetown CANA in English 1323 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 18, CANA -- The Barbados Government has reiterated its strong commitment to the regional integration movement, but has repeated reservations about some aspects of regional security arrangements, in which it is involved with several other territories of the Eastern Caribbean.

The islands position is set out in 185-page review of the country's foreign policy, titled DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT, just published here by the Foreign Ministry.

Barbados believes that by concentrating on concrete areas where functional cooperation is possible, the standing and future of the integration movement will be enhanced to the benefit of the peoples of the region, the review stated. But the review, the first detailed foreign policy statement of the 11-month-old Democratic Labour Party (DLP) administration, reiterated the governments reservations about military aspects of the regional security system [RSS], a five-year arrangement involving Barbados and five islands of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS).

The governments opposition to upgrading the RSS memorandum of understanding into a fullscale treaty, is also re-stated in the review. The Barbados Government...does not share (some other members) view on the need for such a treaty since it considers the present memorandum of understanding a perfectly adequate framework through which to pursue cooperation with its Eastern Caribbean neighbours on regional security matters, the review said.

Barbados also expressed it preference for primary emphasis to be placed on areas such as coast guard cooperation, search and rescue and drug interdiction, and its concerns to avoid an escalation of the military components of the regional security system, the document added.

The document stressed that the islands commitment to the regional integration process cut across domestic political lines. Barbados has well established an consistent integrationist credentials. Successive Barbadian leaders have demonstrated their commitment to regional integration, by working actively to realize the ideal of Caribbean unity, said the review.

It stressed the special relationships between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados and Guyana. Close proximities and ties of consanguinity between the peoples of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, are among the important factors which delineate the closeness between the two countries, the report said of Barbados-Trinidad and Tobago ties. Traditional ties of blood and culture have bonded the peoples of Barbados and Guyana in a close relationship...it added of the islands relations with Caricoms only South American member.

The importance of the economic aspects of relations with Trinidad and Tobago was also underscored in the review, although it recognised the significant changes that have been produced as a result of a fall in oil prices and the accompanying falloff in Trinidad and Tobagos purchasing power. The Government of Barbados recognizes the significant contribution Trinidad an Tobago has made to regional development, and will strive, in the context of current economic realities, to collaborate closely with the new government of Trinidad and Tobago in all areas to the mutual advantage of both countries, the report added.

On Guyana, the report noted the economic difficulties that country is currently experiencing, which, among other things, led to Guyana defaulting on its debts to Barbados. Initiatives have recently been taken between the two governments to find a solution to this problem, utilizing joint ventures, counter-trade and other mechanisms to liquidate the countrys indebtedness to Barbados, the report said.

The report spoke of a less intense relationship with Jamaica, suggesting that this was due mainly to geographical distance and a perception of a northern orientation on Jamaicas part. It said that exchanges with Jamaica have been generally through multilateral forums, including Caricom, but pledged to work for closer bilateral ties.

The report said Barbados has always felt a special relationship and kinship with the countries of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), and added that the island always took a special interest in promoting these countries, and in offering assistance to them, including training in fields such as air traffic control, and meteorology. The Foreign Ministry report promised governments continued cooperation with the OECS states.

It also promised similar efforts in developing relations with Belize and the Bahamas, two of the most distant members of Caricom from Barbados. Barbados support for Belize in its continuing boundary dispute with Guatemala is also re-stated.

The report also considered Barbados relations with non-English speaking countries of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Suriname.

Noting that Haiti's poor human rights under the Duvalier regime and the absence of a democratic tradition impeded development of ties with that country, the report said that Duvaliers' downfall in February last year had created opportunities for some kind of relationship. Barbados has promised its sympathetic support to the people of Haiti in their efforts to return to democratic rule, and has offered to share with Haiti its experience in the organisation of the electoral process, the report added.

It described relations with the Dominican Republic as cordial but offered no promise of expansion in future.

The report devoted just three paragraphs to Cuba, noting Barbados was among three Commonwealth Caribbean states which opened relations with Cuba in 1972. It took this action in recognition of a fundamental geographical reality, of the need to expand relations with the wider Caribbean, and of the concept of ideological pluralism, the report added.

It noted that Barbados and Cuba have cooperated largely in the area of culture, and described relations as being cordial and correct.

On Suriname, the report noted that development of relations are being hindered by political instability and human rights infringement in that former Dutch South American colony.

STATEMENT ASSESSES RELATIONS WITH UNITED KINGDOM

FL211343 Bridgetown CANA in English 1310 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 21, CANA -- The welfare of more than 40,000 Barbadians living in Britain, will be given top priority in Barbados' relations with the United Kingdom.

The Barbados Government set out its position in a 185-page foreign policy statement, just published here as the first comprehensive guide to the country's foreign relations under the 11-month-old Democratic Labour Party (DLP) administration.

The welfare of Barbadian nationals in Britain will be a central theme of the relationship, and government will continue...to represent their interests and promote their welfare, said the statement, titled DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT.

Government intends to open negotiations with the British Government which will lead to a reciprocal social security agreement to safeguard the pension rights of Barbadians now working in Britain, but who may return home on retirement.

The document spoke of sharp differences between Britain and Barbados over apartheid in South Africa, a reference to London's continued opposition to mandatory economic sanctions against Pretoria. ...the Barbados Government will actively promote the maintenance of friendly dialogue between Britain and her Commonwealth partners towards encouraging an early reconsideration of her position, the statement added.

The statement briefly traced the decline in British influence in the Caribbean as its colonies in the region became independent. In 1960, Britain supplied 40 per cent of Barbados' imports, and received 63 per cent of Barbados' exports. But by 1983, it accounted for only nine per cent of Barbados' imports and 45 per cent of its exports. The statement, however, insisted that trade links continued to be an important component of Barbados' relations with Britain.

The statement said that Barbados, which became independent from Britain in 1966, had sought to build a new partnership with the U.K.... Barbados believes that Britain continues to have an important leadership role to play in preserving the integrity of the Commonwealth as an unique example of creative North/South diplomacy, said the statement. But the dominant factor in Anglo-Barbados relations was the human dimension.

Although no conclusive statistics exist, Britain remains the country with the largest population of immigrant Barbadians...said the statement. Estimates of the number of Barbadians living in Britain range between 40,000 and 60,000, many of whom retain dual nationality and strong links with their country of origin... The statement noted that the tightening of Britain's domestic immigration laws, economic recession of the 1980s, and the accompanying decline in employment and serious setbacks in race relations, have affected many Barbadian immigrants...

As for the future, in addition to looking after the welfare of Barbadians in Britain, the statement said that Bridgetown will continue cooperation with London in the Commonwealth and in the context of the European Community.

Bilaterally, Barbados will seek markets in Britain for non-traditional exports, and try to encourage British businesses to invest here, and more British tourists to visit Barbados.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION ON ECONOMY

FL230055 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 22 Apr 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 22, CANA -- Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson pleaded tonight for his countrymen to give the new adminstration "a chance," telling them that the economic outlook remains grim.

Let me emphasize -- four months not four years. We have only barely begun our five-year term, Robinson said in a nationwide broadcast. "Give your new government a chance. Give yourselves a chance. We are making progress," the prime minister said, apparently responding to criticism of his government.

He reported that an outstanding national debt of TT1.5 billion dollars had caught up with problems of servicing the states's recurrent expenditure outlay -- two factors now hampering governments development spending programme.

In the fiscal operations of the government for the first quarter of 1987, from January to 31st March, there was a current account deficit of 75.1 million dollars, Robinson said.

There was an overall financing surplus of 292.8 million dollars due to loan receipts amounting to 324 million dollars, 173.7 million dollars of which was raised in Japan and 150.8 million dollars on the local market.

It is against this background that hard decisions had to be taken and will have to be taken in the future. If we shrink from taking such decisions, we are lost, Robinson said without elaborating.

Robinson said his government was busy putting in place the necessary structures for planning, creating jobs, and providing homes.

Robinson, who also carries the finance portfolio, restated plans to review the tax structure to make it more responsive to developmental needs.

He also named 14 specific proposed projects -- some additional to the 22 announced in the January 1987 budget speech -- that his 13-man cabinet identified during a private meeting last week, including establishment of a trade centre to train unemployed youths, new health and school facilities, and new judicial, police and recreational facilities throughout the country.

The projects will be undertaken on a model through which contractors come forward with designs and proposals for financing.

What we are seeking to do is to mobilise local capital, local skills and resources for these projects so as to promote internally propelled economic growth, Robinson said.

Here in the context of our straightened financial resources, we will literally be called upon to make bread out of stone, Robinson said.

IMF, USSR ASSISTANCE REFUSED BY GOVERNMENT

FL171651 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Trinidadian Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson has told his National Alliance for Reconstruction Party that though Trinidad and Tobago is financially strapped, he will not look to the Soviet Union for assistance. Mr Robinson said that he will not turn to either the Soviet Union or the IMF for what he calls a bailout of the country's economic doldrums. He said that both the IMF and the Russians would want concessions from Trinidad and Tobago in exchange for economic assistance.

DEBT REDUCTION PLAN DISCUSSED WITH GUYANA

FL211434 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Banking and government officials of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana began drafting plans this week to reduce Guyana's $40 million debt to Trinidad and Tobago. The communique issued Sunday [19 April] came after 4 days of talks between Guyana Deputy Prime Minister Haslyn Parris and Trinidad Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday and other officials of the two countries. According to the communique, the heads of the central banks of both countries and top government officials will work on the debt reduction plan.

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE WITH LIBYA CONDEMNS U.S.

FL231818 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Suriname-Libya Friendship Committee has issued a statement to mark the American bombardment of Tripoli 1 year ago. The committee refers to the action as a cowardly act of American imperialism, which it firmly condemns.

In the statement, the committee warns that Suriname could also become a victim of such aggression. It said that such attacks are made against nations which struggle for their sovereignty, independence, and national freedom. The statement closed with a call to all Surinamese to reject any outside involvement in the internal affairs of Suriname.

ACP-EEC TO STUDY RELATIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS

FL231847 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Yesterday [22 April] a delegation from the ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific]-EEC arrived in Suriname for the purpose of trying to normalize relations between Suriname and Holland. The commission will investigate the effects of the unilateral suspension of Dutch development aid on the economy of Suriname. The delegation will also be informed about the democratization process, the new Constitution, the referendum, and the general elections, which will be held at the end of 1987.

Part of the investigating commission are the Frenchmen [as heard] (Henri Sarde) and co-president of the EEC-ACP, Mr (Sadiq Diara), who is chairman of the National Assembly of Mali.

Today the 14-man strong delegation paid courtesy visits to the president, prime minister, the trade unions, the national assembly, and the ministers of finance and transport, trade and industry. The visit will end with a press conference next Tuesday [28 April].

The EEC-ACP delegation has already visited Holland, where they held talks with Van den Broek and Bukman.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATES IN DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE

FL241924 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Suriname is one of the five countries in the Caribbean which deals with the drug problem in an institutionalized manner. This was made known at the recently-held conference in Belize where countries from the region came together to talk about the fight against illegal drugs. At the meeting Suriname was represented by the National Council Against Drug Abuse.

Former Health Minister Robert Van Trikt, who is now secretary of this ministry, was during the conference appointed to the regional committee for the rehabilitation of drug users. Suriname does have a drug problem but it is not so alarming compared to other Caribbean countries.